



Office of the Archbishop  
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February 9, 2017

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

It is with some urgency that I write to you today, about a bill in our Illinois legislature, HB 40. The bill in question, if passed, would use tax dollars to pay for taking the life of a child in the womb through an abortion. There are strong indications that HB 40 could be enacted into law if we fail to act.

In addition to mandating state funding of abortion through the Medicaid program, HB 40 also calls for abortion coverage in state employees' health care plans. It also allows for the use of tax dollars to fund grants to organizations that refer, counsel for and perform abortions, e.g., Planned Parenthood. All of these state-funded mandates are currently prohibited by Illinois law.

We have raised our voices in the past for those who have no voice, whether they be the immigrant or the refugee, the poor, or the unemployed. We now need to speak for the children in the womb, who are the weakest among us.

We need to let our elected officials know that taxpayers should not be forced to fund the taking of human life. In fact, tax money should be used to fund prenatal services for the poor and child care for working mothers, as well as expand health-care options for those in need. Please join me in advocating for all life by urging your state representative to reject HB 40 and work instead to pass a budget that funds all essential services.

The Season of Lent begins soon. Lent is a word that means "springtime," the time of new life. Let us make this Lent a celebration of life by protecting the new life and hope the birth of a child brings to the world.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Card. Blase J. Cupich".

Cardinal Blase Cupich  
Archbishop of Chicago

*If you need assistance in determining the name of your lawmaker, or in sending a message to him or her, go to [www.ilcatholic.org](http://www.ilcatholic.org) or call the Catholic Conference at its Chicago office at 312-368-1066 or its Springfield office at 217-528-9200.*